



# THE OLIVE CHAPEL ELEMENTARY

## Wave

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## A Legend Leaves OCE

by Avni Patel

If you didn't know Ms. Duke is retiring. She has been here since OCE opened. She has made such a big difference in this school. She has changed tracks and grades and she is still here, she is a great person and an amazing instructional assistant. She is funny and kind, and she will push you as hard as you can go. So let's ask her some questions about her retirement!

### **Which grades have you taught and how many tracks have you been on?**

I have taught kindergarten, first grade, and second grade. I have been on every track but track 4.

### **What will you be doing in your free time now?**

Ha! There will be no "free" time because I am relocating to Chicago to be near my son and his family. They already have an amazing two year old, Henry, and are expecting twins in June. I will be helping them as needed, but already have two jobs lined up due to the cost of living there! I will be helping my son and working in a pathology lab.

### **What will you miss most about OCE?**

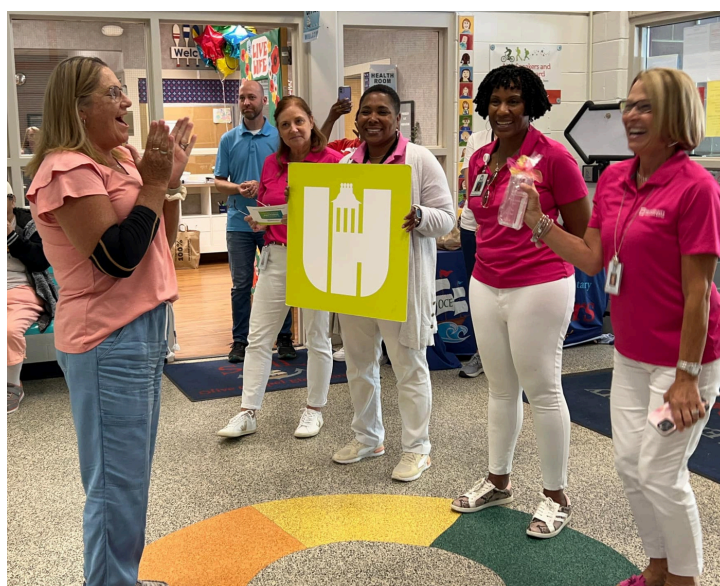
Wow, there are sooo many things! This has been like a family to me! I will miss friendships, comradery with teammates, watching so many kids grow and excel. I have had quite a few that have graduated college, gotten jobs and continue to keep in touch with me.

### **Will you continue driving a bus after leaving OCE?**

ABSOLUTELY NOT!!! I am actually already done with that endeavor.

### **What is your favorite memory at OCE?**

There are so many memories. I loved having my two children here with me as well as my grandson, Hayden. Watching them grow and thrive at one of the best schools in Wake County was amazing! The other thing that sticks out is the 25th year celebration. Having people come celebrate that were part of the 25 year history here was epic! I got to see staff as well as admin that helped pave the way for OCE. It truly takes a village.



*Ms. Duke receiving an WCPSS Employee Excellence award*

Not to mention getting to complete the 25th year hallway display. I am so honored that a portion of my team's display is still on display in the front office. That was fun for me to represent the admin teams past to present.

### **What is the funniest thing you remember about your time at OCE?**

There have been so many comical moments here! Playing pranks on other staff members like putting Gonzo in Mr. Boyer's car! He drove home and kept him over the weekend. Also just being playful on spirit days, dressing up and being silly.

Ms. Duke also has said, "I just want to thank each and every person. Whether it be a co-worker, admin, parent, or a kid. I am truly blessed to carry a past at OCE. Even though I am relocating I will ALWAYS BE A CLIPPER NO MATTER WHAT!"

OCE loves having Ms. Duke here. She has made everyone's day, she is so great and helps OCE so much since OCE has opened. We will all miss her so very much but we all know that she will always be a Clipper no matter what happens. Chicago is very blessed to have Ms. Duke. We love you so very much!

## All About the OCE Field Days

by *Serena Bandyopadhyay & Dhiya Sadish Kannan*

Field day is all about FUN! It's technically PE but it has volunteers and refreshment stations. In this article, we'll explain to you what to expect from field day, from water games to volleyball.



Water games are still on land, but expect to get DRENCHED! One water game that I am particularly fond of is when you split into teams and someone is sitting on a bin in the middle of the space. You roll down on a scooter and the person sprays you!

## Stickin' Around OCE

by *Dhwani Raghavendran*

I don't know if it's just me, but stickers have been adorning every water bottle, Chromebook, and even desks all around the school! Vinyl Stickers add a decorative touch to any object they are applied to as well as are practical, as they are waterproof and heatproof too. Because of this, a lot of sticker trading goes on from collectors all over the school wishing to trade off stickers they don't like for new ones they do like.

## Learn About National Speech Language Hearing Month

by *Addie MacNaughton*

May is National Speech-Language-Hearing Month. This was created in 1927 by the Federation of Organizations for the Hard of Hearing. In this article I will be interviewing Ms. Wiley, our school speech-language pathologist!

Another fun game is the Water Relay, which you have to run from one bucket to another with a cup of water in hand. (P.S. your teacher sprays you with a hose!) Not a water fan? No problem! There are many other games that don't include water. There's beach volleyball, a game where you have to throw ropes with balls onto hurdles, and a GIANT parachute where you can do fun stuff with your classmates.

Here's a question you may find yourself asking a teacher: What should I wear to field day? Well, your teacher may order T-shirts that say "(teacher's name) Team!" But pants-wise, you can wear anything like full length pants, but we recommend waterproof shorts. You might want to wear sneakers because you will be running A LOT! But Crocs work too (for the water games).

Now, all this might make you hungry and thirsty. Not to worry, we have POPSICLES! From lime to cherry and all in between, the sugariness will make you energetic and ready to seize the day! Thirst wise, bring your water bottle, but if you forget, that's fine! There's a water station where you can get plastic disposable cups with water.

There are so many activities. From being nice and DRY with a parachute, to being DRENCHED with the sponge, to POPSICLES.

There are many genres of stickers such as spooky, funny, super cute, and many more. This trend is especially popular with fifth graders. As I have noticed, fifth graders tend to have a very large collection of stickers compared to other grades. And yes, I do admit, I have a sticker collection too! It is just so much fun to have this activity as a hobby! Try it yourself today and join the fun!

### **Why is National Speech-Language-Hearing Month important?**

National Speech-Language-Hearing Month provides a chance to celebrate the work of speech-language pathologists (SLP) and audiologists. It is also used to raise awareness about communication disorders and the role of a speech-language pathologist (SLP) in providing treatment. This is a great time to build up and empower those living with a communication disorder and to help others build compassion for those affected by these disorders.

## Safety Patrol Keeps the Sidewalks and Hallways Safe

by Mariella Orthober

If you have ever seen the kids outside with neon green vests, they are called Safety Patrol and they are here to make sure you get to and from class safely. Safety Patrol is made up of 5th graders and grouped by their tracks. Mrs. McCarty established the safety patrol around eight years ago and it's currently run by Ms. Chafee.

Safety Patrollers are stationed at both bus and carpool during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. Safety Patrollers stationed at carpool help kids get into and out of their cars during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. Those stationed at bus help the kids get to and from their buses in the morning and afternoon.

Safety patrol is also responsible for raising both the American and State of North Carolina flags in the morning. In the afternoon, they take them down and properly fold and store them.

At the end of the year, the 5th grade safety patrollers have the responsibility of training the 4th graders so that they are prepared to take over the next year.



Ms. Chafee, the 4th grade teacher in charge of safety patrol, says that she loves to watch her former students become leaders in safety patrol.

The kids and teachers involved put a lot of time and effort into safety patrol, arriving 45 minutes before school starts and staying up to an hour after school ends. It's all worth it to ensure the safety of our Olive Chapel students!

## Speech Language Hearing Month continued

### What kind of things do you do in your job?

I am the only SLP at Olive Chapel. My job list is very long, but short and sweet: I help students improve their communication so that they can perform to the best of their ability in their classroom. I work with students across all levels who have difficulty with saying their speech sounds, stuttering, and language delays. In school speech therapy, we focus on how the student's difficulties impact their access to their classroom.

For example, a student struggling with saying correct speech sounds may not be understood correctly by their peers and teachers. This can cause them to not be able to fully participate. Another big part of my job is completing all the school's speech-language/communication testing.

### Why did you want to be a speech-language pathologist?

I wanted to be a speech-language pathologist because I enjoy working with people! I also love the content of my field. I want to make a difference in people's lives by empowering them to develop their communication skills in ways that work the best for them. I chose to work in a school as a SLP due to my background as a teacher. Before becoming a SLP, I was a second-grade teacher for six years at a year-round school (Track 3!!)

Ms. Wiley also wanted to add that, "being a SLP means you need to be willing to be a lifelong learner. We need to be knowledgeable about such a variety of disorders, treatments, assessments, technology, etc. that it requires us to stay current on research and strategies that are proving to work. I enjoy learning new ways to provide therapy."

As you can see, May is very important. Ms. Wiley and all SLPs work so hard. I thought it was cool that Ms. Wiley even learns when she is an adult! That shows that you learn your whole life! Ms. Wiley works hard and loves her job, we are so lucky to have her here at OCE!

## Staff Members Have Fun Too

by Calla Cochran & Mariella Orthober

Did you know that there is an entire committee dedicated to planning the teacher's events? If you don't, it's called the hospitality committee and its members include Ms. Sandoval, Ms. Trainor, Ms. Walsh, Ms. Burlison, Ms. Christie, Ms. Turnau, Ms. Malamutt, Ms. Garrison, Ms. Christensen, Ms. Kriegel, Ms. Duguid, and Coach Roberts.

The Hospitality Committee meets monthly on Mondays at 4:15 to plan events like the First Breakfast, the Spring and Fall gatherings and an event for the end of the year. After talking to some of the Hospitality Committee members, I found out that one of the main challenges about planning the events is their budget.

The committee has a very small budget and they have to find ways to work around that to plan fun gatherings but use the least amount of money possible. I also found out that Ms. Trainor's favorite event that the committee has planned was the virtual comedian during covid 19. Also, Mrs. Sandoval's favorite event they planned was the previous winter event at Smith Farm clubhouse.

This year, the hospitality committee merged with the wellness committee to plan events that combine fun with your wellness. While the teachers are usually too busy during the day to hang out and talk to each other, the Hospitality Committee gives them a chance to get together outside of school and plan the events that all of the teachers love.

## Moving Up to Middle School

by Lena Heyder

Middle school brings out so many different emotions in everyone. Let me share my thoughts about Apex Friendship Middle School. I've been a part of Olive Chapel Elementary since kindergarten, and now that I'm in 5th grade, it's tough to leave. I've been here from 2019 to 2024. Here are some of my feelings:

I am excited about middle school because it's a BIG leap into something I have never been to. Apex Friendship is a humongous school but it will have many different stuff like lockers, new friends, new teachers, new classes, etc. Although there are so many different things about elementary school and middle, the biggest difference I heard is that life is a little tougher and faces bigger challenges. But for the 4th graders and the other grades, that doesn't mean for you to stop and not face your biggest challenges. Like when I came to 5th grade I had so many challenges. Although I had so many I faced it.

And that made accomplishments that were first hard but then I figured it out. So I will have that in middle school but I will face it like the other students in my grade. I am nervous because of how big the school is. It is kinda overwhelming to see so many things that make Apex Friendship huge. Also, next to Apex Friendship Middle School is their high school, which supposedly has 4 floors. But since I was saying how if we face our challenges it makes them easier so I will face how big the school is.

I will be tired because of how early I have to wake up. I know this is not a feeling but I will also have so much homework but I will finish fast and snooze like a cat. I will also feel sad because 5th grade is the only grade I will be with my brother who is in kindergarten. And how I will miss this school, but since I will be in the band I will ask my band teacher if she can come to Olive Chapel so we can perform there.

by Conley Tierney

As a fifth grader, I must transition to middle school, which means changing schools. I want to share my thoughts about this transition and tell you about the school I'll be attending. I will be going to Reedy Creek Middle School Magnet for the digital sciences. This means the school specializes in teaching the science behind technology. It's a magnet school, which brings in students from other schools to experience their specialized curriculum.

The school has a strong emphasis on robotics, bringing S.T.E.M. education to a deeper level. The school's mascot is the eagle.

Reedy Creek offers unique classes, such as Bits and Bites, which teaches computer coding languages. Despite its focus on digital sciences, the school also offers core classes like math, ELA, science, social studies, health/PE, band, Spanish, and other learning classes.

Starting in 6th grade, I can become a manager for school sports, and in 7th grade, I can participate in school sports like track and field, basketball, and football. However, the school does not participate in playoffs or championships. As for my thoughts about the transition, while it may be different from elementary school, it's not scary. The most challenging part may be having different classes and schedules than most of my friends. On the positive side, I'm looking forward to having more freedom, even though there will be more homework and responsibility. Overall, I think transitioning to middle school will be great, but it will be a different experience with the seven periods and other new things.